

CITY OF BRANSON
ORIGINAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESS
QUESTION AND ANSWERS

03/12/10

1. What is involved in getting a liquor license in Branson?

An applicant must submit a liquor license application for review and approval by the City of Branson. Some types of liquor licenses are restricted in the number of licenses that can be issued and may not be available to the applicant. Background checks will have to be done on all managing officers, LLC members, partners, owners, and major stockholders after an application is submitted to determine if they are in good standing (do not have a history of felony and misdemeanor convictions). If the city approves the application, a Letter of Intent is provided to the applicant that they submit with their liquor license application to the state's Division of Liquor Control. Once the applicant has obtained a state liquor license, they bring the liquor license to City Hall where the city will issue a City Liquor License if the applicant is current on all taxes and provided city services. The applicant has 90 calendar days from the application date to obtain a liquor license or else their city application becomes void.

2. Does it cost anything to apply for a city liquor license?

The business will have to pay \$250 to submit an application and an additional \$50 for a secondary license such as a Sunday license. Each individual that is required to have a background check will have to pay for their background checks at the time they submit the needed information to initiate the review.

3. What does it cost for the actual city liquor license?

The fee is still 1.5 times whatever the State of Missouri charges. The amount of the state fee is printed on the state liquor license. Branson's fee is paid at the time the applicant brings the state issued liquor license to City Hall for copying.

4. Are application fees refundable?

Application fees are not refundable for any reason once the application is submitted to the Finance Department at City Hall.

5. Can an applicant apply with the state Division of Liquor Control at the same time as applying with the City?

Yes. However, the state liquor license will not be issued until the State receives a Letter of Intent from the City of Branson. However, it is strongly recommended that the applicant begin the

process with the City to make sure all zoning requirements are met and the type of liquor license is available.

6. What kind of alcohol related training is required of employees?

The local general manager, bar manager, all servers, bartenders, cashiers, and any other employee involved in the sale or serving of liquor are to participate in a city approved alcohol education program within 2 months of their hire date. Employees participating and not participating in a training program will have to be listed on the liquor application each year with the date of training participation. Employees are expected to have “responsible alcohol selling” training every two years. The business is to maintain a local record of training for each server, cashier, and bartender. The managing officer is also expected to participate in a training session.

7. What is the purpose of the training?

The training should increase the ability to detect underage drinkers and intoxicated drinkers. The intent is to have more responsible sellers of intoxicating alcohol and to minimize the risks of selling to underage buyers and intoxicated users.

8. Where can we get the training?

The Community Partnership of the Ozarks holds training sessions in Branson once a quarter at City Hall. Cost is currently \$5 per person paid on the day of attendance. Advance seat reservation can be made by contacting Chris Davis at 417-888-2020. An on-line approved training class is the State of Missouri Alcohol Responsibility Training (SMART) program which is coordinated through the Wellness Resource Center at the University of Missouri. An employer can register their employees for the training by going to <http://wellness.missouri.edu/SMART/>. If the employer needs assistance in enrolling employees in the SMART program or has additional questions, they can contact the program administrator at 573-882-9335.

9. How do I get a background check on the appropriate individuals in our business?

Individuals can go to Branson’s Police Department at 110 W. Maddux (City Hall) between 8 and 4 Monday through Friday to initiate the background check. A second option is to set an appointment at an Integrated Biometric Technology (IBT) location by calling 1-866-522-7067. IBT has approximately 43 locations within Missouri where appointments can be set. More information on IBT can be found at their web site www.L1id.com/IBT. Results from the IBT search are sent directly to the applicant who will then have to provide copies to the Finance Department at City Hall. Branson Police Department search results will be sent directly by the Missouri Highway Patrol to the City of Branson’s Finance Department. Background search costs are the same whether performed by the Police Department or IBT.

10. What is expected of the Managing Officer named on the liquor license?

The Managing Officer is an employee of the business who is involved in the day-to-day management of the Branson establishment and who is responsible for the business and its employee's compliance with Missouri and Branson liquor laws and related ordinances. This person makes sure employees are trained to inspect ID's, to identify intoxicated drinkers, and to be educated in appropriate liquor laws. The Managing Officer is expected to be an upstanding citizen of the community (i.e. registered voter, pays taxes timely, has no felony convictions, and no alcohol license related infractions).

11. What has changed for caterers who serve alcoholic beverages at a catered event?

A caterer will need to provide the city a copy of the contract or agreement between the caterer and the sponsor of the function, occasion, or event along with the agreement between the caterer and the person controlling the premises where the event is to take place. In addition the caterer needs to describe the specific location where alcoholic beverages will be served at the facility that the catering will take place. If attendees at the event will be charged for alcoholic beverages, the organization that will pay the state sales and city tourism taxes must be identified on the application. The new application can be found on Branson's website.

12. If I get a state liquor license, can I sell liquor before getting the city liquor license?

No. A copy of the state liquor license needs to be brought to City Hall and all requirements for the City license must be met before the city will issue a city license. City requirements include among other things to be current in payment on all city, county, and state taxes and city services.

13. Are liquor licenses transferrable?

No. If there is any change in license type, ownership, or managing officer a new application must be submitted to the city. If a business moves its location, a new license application has to be submitted and approved by the city and the state. Liquor licenses are not transferable. The city should be notified immediately upon a sale of a business or a change in ownership.

14. How can I get additional information on the city liquor licensing process and related forms?

Questions about the city liquor licensing process can be directed to Carl Garrett at 417-337-8575. The city's liquor ordinances, liquor license application form, renewal liquor license application, caterer's application, and related information can be found on the city's web page at www.bransonmo.gov.

15. Who do I contact at the state level if I have questions about the state licensing process?

The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control agent currently assigned to Branson is Nick Huckstep who works from his home in Nixa and can be reached at 417-724-2162 or by email at nick.huckstep@dps.mo.gov. The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control's district supervisor is Joe Hodgins and he can be contacted by calling 816-889-2574. The mailing address is Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Room 506, 615 E. 13th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64106.

16. How late can a minor be in an establishment that sells Liquor by the Drink?

Individuals under the age of 21 cannot be in Liquor by the Drink establishments after midnight unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This includes holidays and special events.

17. What is the minimum distance a liquor selling establishment can be located to a church or school?

300 feet. The measurement is from building to building. Existing liquor license holders are exempted from this requirement.